

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 93

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: MALCOLM M. BROWN

PRESENT POSITION Art Instructor
Shaker Heights High

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Charlottesville, VA

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Mixed Media/Watercolor

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Virginia State College, B.S., 1955

Boston University, 1963

Case Western Reserve University, M.A., 1969

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

SOLO--Malcolm Brown Gallery, '81, '84, '87, '90, '92; Butler Institute of American Art, '86; Afro-American Museum at Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, '86; Birgen-Sandzen Gallery, Lindsborgh, KS, '78; Holden School of Design, VA, '73; Hiram College, OH, '71; Canton Art Institute (2 man), '66; Longview Museum, (3 man), TX '83; GROUP--Juried Cleveland Museum of Art-May Show, '76, '93; Butler Institute-Mid-year, '66, '67, '68; National Academy of Design, NY, '68; American Watercolor Society, '67, '69, '70, '73; Springfield Art Museum-Watercolor USA, MO, '67, '68, '71, '74; Mainstreams International, OH, '69, '73

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta,; ARCO Chemical Corp., Philadelphia, General Tire Corp.; BP America; Soft Sheen Corp., Chicago; Predicast, Inc.; Kaiser Permanente Hospitals; Metro General; Society National Bank, National City Bank, East Ohio Gas Company; Springfield Art Museum Cleveland INstitute of Art, University of Virginia, West Virginia State College, City of Shaker Heights, The Cleveland Convention & Visitors Bureau, GE Corp., The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Art Assn., AmeriTrust Company, A.W. Fenton Company McDonald's Hamburger Systems, Delta Sigma Theta Headquarters, Washington, DC

AWARDS:

Mainstreams International-Award of Excellence, Marietta, OH, '70; Canton Art Institute-Second Prize Watercolor, '71; National Exhibition of Black ARTists-HENry O. Tanner Award, Washington, DC, '71; Rocky Mountain National-Watermedia Award, Golden, Co, '71; Virginia Beach Boardwalk Exhibition-1st Prize Watercolor, '71, '72, '73, '74; Ohio Art Teacher of the Year, '79; Ohio Watercolor Society Award-'84, '85; Charter member Ohio Watercolor Society, Member, American Watercolor Society since 1973

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet. ..

See Attached and reverse side.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1992

Paintings of pleasure, and all that vibrant jazz

By STEVEN LITT

PLAIN DEALER ART CRITIC

In a recent group of pictures called "Improvisations," Shaker Heights artist Malcolm Brown paints jazz musicians with bold strokes of bright color that vibrate like neon. He inserts snippets of magazine cigarette advertisements like fragments of song or conversation overheard in a smoky bar. And his brush skips across the paintings like a saxophonist lost in a solo.

Brown's jazz paintings are part of a one-person exhibition on view through Jan. 17 at the Malcolm Brown Gallery in Shaker Heights. The artist, a member of the American Watercolor Society, has taught in Shaker Heights schools since 1969 and operates the gallery with his wife, Ernestine Brown.

This exhibition is Brown's first solo show since one at the gallery last year that focused on images of the Caribbean. This year's show, with 18 recent works, centers almost entirely on images of small jazz ensembles in performance. It's an art about pleasure. But it's not slapdash or mindless or purely hedonistic.

In "Birdland" and "Take 5," two of the show's best small paintings, musicians are arranged in friezelike patterns against vibrant backdrops of red or blue that weave in and around the musicians like the sound of music in a crowded nightclub. The players are sometimes defined with broad, flat strokes of color, and sometimes outlined with bright, graffiti strokes that vibrate against the background hue.

■ "Improvisations," by Malcolm Brown, is on view at the Malcolm Brown Gallery, 20100 Chagrin Blvd., Shaker Heights, through Jan. 17. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; or by appointment. Call 751-2955.

Although the works have a strongly improvisational flavor, they also have a strong sense of compositional structure. They fit firmly and comfortably within their square formats.

Brown's work represents the continuity of a tradition that blends the roots of modern painting with pride in black culture. The flat, color-filled and light-drenched paintings of Henri Matisse — himself a great lover of jazz — are strongly apparent as an influence in Brown's work. So, too, are the collages of Romare Bearden, the North Carolina-born black painter whose work was strongly influenced by Matisse.

Brown's work is strongest when simplest. In "Jam Session," musicians are indicated with jabbing, graffiti strokes of violet, aquamarine, pale purple, green and red. The colors are so intense they make you squint. And the nervous, jittery application of paint makes the eye jump around the picture in a visual dance. In style, the picture is less indebted to Matisse and Bearden than the others in the exhibition. It indicates a strong direction for Brown to pursue in future.

SEE PAINTINGS/4-D

Paintings

FROM/1-D

The large, abstract watercolors in the exhibition are more elaborate technically, but less engrossing than the smaller, punchier jazz paintings. In his cloudy, dreamy abstractions, Brown paints fog banks of pinkish purples and lipstick red that have an

oppressively perfumey look.

Brown can make paint condense on paper like winter frost or create abstract patterns that look half crystalline, half vegetal by dabbing the paper surface with alcohol and salt. But next to the small, bright, punchy jazz paintings, the larger works in the show look overelaborate and fussy. Brown is at his best when he's working directly with a brush. And when he's at his best, his work brims with contagious enjoyment.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Art is the window through which I share my artistic vision and emotion. In my approach to painting, I am most concerned with the concept of design. My aim is to capture the flavor of time and space with spontaneous color nuances.

Why watercolor? It has been my favorite medium for more than two decades. As I have conquered the fear induced by its unpredictability, I have become almost masochistically involved with its challenge. Each time I start a painting, it's like playing a game against a seasoned opponent. I am energized as I move into the creative process and excited about the anticipated outcome, still after more than twenty years of painting.

To me the most stimulating aspect of watercolor painting is the endless learning involved. It is from the mistakes, accidents and recoveries that one becomes proficient and adept. I am constantly seeking and experimenting with innovative concepts of expression. I am influenced by John Singer Sargent and Winslow Homer, but my real source of inspiration comes from that which surrounds me.

Although my first love is watercolor, my most recent work reflects a departure from its quite, soft hues to large more colorful works. A strong emphasis on texture, pattern and vibrant color blended with the energy emanating from music, especially jazz, has been my motivation to further expand and explore my gift to make art. The response to it has been extraordinarily rewarding.

MALCOLM M. BROWN, A.W.S.

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DEC 76. 11 DEC 16

DEC 6

DEC 6

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: MALCOIM MC CLEOD BROWN, AWS

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: August 19, 1931 - Charlottesville, Virginia

PRIMARY MEDIA Watercolor and Acrylics

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

Virginia State University - B. S.

Boston University - Cleveland Institute of Art

Case-Western Reserve University - M. A.

Work has been shown in museums and colleges throughout the U.S. under the auspices of the American Watercolor Society, Watercolor USA and Mainstreams International traveling exhibitions and represented in numerous private collections. Work viewed internationally through the California Watercolor Society and the American Embassy.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

American Watercolor Society

National Academy of Design

Butler Institute of American Art

Watercolor USA

Mainstreams International

National Exhibition of Black Artists

California Watercolor Society

Mississippi National Watercolor Show

Rocky Mountain National

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Society National Bank - Mentor, Ohio

Springfield Art Museum

Zaremba Construction Company

University of Virginia Medical School

Numerous private collectors

Regional

All-Ohio Watercolor Show - Mainstreams Invitation

Cleveland Institute of Art Faculty Show

Jewish Community Center annual Art Show

Shaker Square Art Show

Canton Art Institute

MAY Show - 76

Massillon Art Museum - Laguna Beach Art Museum

Galleries

Collectors Cove - Atlanta, Ga.

Barclay Gallery - " "

Berger-Sandzen Gallery, Lindsberg, Kansas

Strongs Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio

Island Gallery, Manteo, North Carolina

AWARDS: ~~Was~~ Listed in "Who's Who in Black America", 1976 Edition

Rocky Mountain National, Colorado, Watermedia Award '75

Purchase Award, Watercolor USA '74, Springfield Art Museum

Member of the American Watercolor Society

Member of the California National Watercolor Society

Award of Excellence - Mainstreams International '70

First Prize in transparent watercolor - Virginia Beach Boardwalk '71, '72, '73, and '74

Henry O. Tanner Award, 1972 - Work featured in magazine "Art Review"

PRESENT POSITION:

Teacher - Shaker Heights School System - Part time faculty - Cleveland Institute of Art

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.
Thank you for your cooperation.